

A Heart Must Be Broken Before it Can Be Healed

by unluckybabel13

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Summary: Laxus Dreyer usually knew what he wanted, when he wanted. When it comes to Freed, everything changes and all bets are off. This is the story of how a one sided love is finally recognized. With rough beginnings and romantic endings and the chance at being mates? Further description inside!

1. Info!

****YES I KNOW ITS LONG BUT PLEASE READ ANYWAY !** Hey guys so this is the first time I've ever written anything for Fairy Tail. I haven't really seen any Fraxus out there and the few that are out there are great! But I feel like I should add to one of my favorite yaoi pairs â€¢_ .I've liked the dragon slayer mating stories, so I think this will end up being one. I'll explain further in the story what that means. Also, I have read all of the manga to the last release so I know what's up with everyone.**

****WARNING:** This will have angst (there will be derogatory terms that will definitely be offense and I do not approve of saying them to anyone-yes you'll know what those terms are; plus violence and gore), yaoi (malexmale), sexual scenes (but I'll give other warnings when that's about to happen), cursing?, hurt/comfort probably, mentions of other pairs, and super romantic, fluffy and cute scenes a few chapters in after the angst ^^ 'cause that's how I roll ;) May be an mpreg laterâ€| or a different story entirely I haven't decided yet... IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE WHAT YOU JUST READ ABOVE OR BELOW DO NOT READ AND LEAVE SPITEFUL COMMENTS! **

****PLEASE NOTE:** Laxus has very positive/confusing feelings for Freed that he wants to figure out (and we all know how Freed is already towards Laxus *nudge, nudge, wink, wink). Hopefully their characters aren't too OOC. Also, I am saying that Laxus is 24 and Freed is 21 o_o Okay here goes lovely readers!**

2. An Evil intruder

All of Fairy Tail successfully defeated another dark guild, which unfortunately caused damage to their own guild. Of course some new remodeling allowed a pool to be added (water slide included), a new sauna/spa area, new sleeping quarters, and hospital area; little tweaks to the guild hall, bar, and second floor have also been added.

Of course after the victory the guild held a party that only Fairy Tail members could pull off.

****Party in the Pool****

Freed was currently soaking his feet in the pool, just relaxing in the chaos of the other guild members. Most of the girls were currently playing a game in the water while simultaneously trying to make sure the boys didn't start a fight destroying the newly remodeled guild *****cough* Natsu, Gray, Gajeel *****cough* The dark guild wasn't as bad as some of the guilds they faced off in the past, but that didn't mean they'd ever go easy on the people that attacked their nakama.

Freed sighed for what seemed like the second time today, before quickly looking around hoping no one noticed. Makarov left the pool area to answer a call from his lacrima in his office. Ever was "not flirting" with Elfman who was "not" paying attention to it at all. Freed stifled a chuckle at them before looking around at the others. Natsu and Lucy were definitely close, Gray and Juvia were practically dating already, Gajeel and Levi were absolutely adorable together, Jellal and Erza were the lovebird blushing pair (Jellal and his team helped out in the fight so he is visiting), Loki somehow got out of his gate again to flirt with most of the women in Fairy Tail, and Bickslow was talking to Laxus.

sigh Laxus.

Today! Today I'll go up to him and tell him he is more than just a friend to me and that I really, really like him! Freed thought with determination, although his butt seemed to be glued to the edge of the pool.

Freed had told Laxus long ago that he had more than friendly feelings towards Laxus when they were younger (in his early teens maybe)? Of course Laxus punched him in the face saying he, and I quote, "Don't do fags. You can stay on the team since you're useful. So I suggest you don't screw up or tell me your stupid feelings again or you're out." Although maybe Freed shouldn't have told Laxus his feelings after his father was excommunicated from Fairy Tail.

Laxus' words hurt Freed deeply to every extent, so he hoped that after a little while (since he was asked to look after Laxus, a request made by his grandfather), that it would end up being some sort of puppy love or maybe it would turn into hatred.

However, neither happened. Freed only became more deeply infatuated with Laxus the longer he was around the man. Sure he had been arrogant, selfish, and overbearing. Freed could see Laxus for what he really was. Laxus wanted to be out of the shadow of his father and grandfather (make a name for himself).

Lexus was awkward at times but he really did care about everyone (of course after being excommunicated himself, then the whole Tenrou Island mess, and then the Grand Magic Games), and of course Tartaros, Freed knew the real Lexus behind the mask. Or what Freed liked to say, behind the scar. Freed never saw Lexus actually date anyone even though there were rumors everywhere. Lexus leaving one-night stands, Lexus sleeping with Mira, Lexus having a mistress, the ridiculous list went on and on. Freed wasn't sure what to believe anymore but hoped that none of them were true. Freed only knew that Lexus liked to get drunk when he was frustrated, but other than that Lexus wouldn't be taken advantage of unless he wanted it to happen.

So to say Freed was afraid to tell Lexus his true feelings in exchange to getting a punch to the face again (or electrocuted), kicked out of the Raijinshuu, or embarrassing Lexus or having Lexus embarrass him; yeah Freed was afraid. But holding these feelings in his heart for the last nine years has turned his heart into an aching painful mess that hurt every time Lexus smiled at him or was nice to him.

Bickslow and Evergreen knew Freed's feelings for Lexus, since they cornered him about it a long time ago. Freed told them the whole story, knowing deep down it wouldn't change anything anyway. Bickslow and Evergreen never tried to push the subject since Freed knew he had a look on his face that clearly said 'I am depressed about Lexus not loving me back so don't talk about it,' and they never did. There really wasn't much to say since Freed tried dating other people, but his heart never changed.

Freed and Lexus may have been a good pairs team in a fight, but a pair as a couple?

Not in a million years.

Freed sighed again at the thought wishing for something to change in his love life. Anything to make the pain in his heart stop aching.

Lexus was only half listening to the Seith mage in front of him before furrowing his brow in worry at his green haired script user across the pool.

_Woah wait! He isn't __**my **__script userâ€| he's the guilds'. Right. _Lexus held in a sigh before glancing back at the greenette _Why are you so sad today Freed?_

"Lexus!"

"Lexus!"

Bickslow's babies were currently flying around his head since he stopped paying attention to Bickslow. Lexus half-heartedly swatted at them before glaring at said Seith mage.

"What's with you today? You've hardly glared at anyone or made any death threats. If I didn't know better I'd say you were coming down with a cold!" Bickslow exaggerated by putting the back of his hand against his forehead making Lexus slap him on the back of the head.

"Shut up."

"Your two most famous words, I know" Bicks smirked at him making Laxus roll his eyes.

Laxus was definitely brooding about something before he saw Laxus glance towards Freed before looking back at the beer in his hand.

_Ohâ€| maybe a little meddling would do these two good! Ever said not to since it could do more harm than good, especially if I did it
â€"whatever that means! _

"Dude just tell him!" Bicks spouted out the first thing that popped into his head hoping Laxus was thinking about Freed.

Yup! Right on the mark! Bicks saw Laxus stiffen for a moment before looking confused at Bickslow.

"Tell who, what exactly?" Laxus drained the rest of this beer before crossing his arms.

"Oh you know, a little green haired mage who is really good with runes and in the Raijinshuu. Super smart and about yay high!"
Bickslow raised his hand to indicate how tall Freed was.

"And what exactly am I to say to him?"

"Dudeâ€|" Bickslow suddenly became serious before whispering so quietly so none of the dragon slayers could listen to their conversation, "you know how he feels about you. You need to either get off your ass to tap that or give Freed some kind of closure to let you go. And definitely not an asshole conversation you had with him when you were fifteen" Bickslow crossed his arms glaring at the lightning mage before him who went from shocked, to angry, to worried making Bickslow burst out laughing (secretly Gajeel and Wendy heard the conversation anyway since they were the closest to the two).

Everyone pretty much ignored the Seith mage at that point since they didn't want to get caught up in anything that made the crazy man laugh. Laxus shuffled his hair before letting out a frustrated sound.

"Iâ€| think I like him" Laxus whispered making Bickslow's jaw drop to the floor (and Gajeel and Wendy's secretly), "but I've hurt him a lot. I should just let him go."

"I'm going to say this with as much love as I can" Bickslow said gently, placing his hands onto Laxus' shoulders. Bickslow then began to shake him back and forth with frustration whispering, "You get your sorry ass over to Freed, confess your undying love and start dating and romanticizing the shit out of him. Don't you dare let him go you conceded bastard! That'll only make things harder on Freed if he finds out you didn't even try to be with him! Jeez shouldn't dragon slayers have mates or whatever!? Well Freed is your mate no doubt about it! Open your eyes because if you haven't been able to see it by now, Freed will be taken from you and maybe you'll finally feel the pain he's been through!"

Bickslow was huffing at this point while Laxus was put into a stupor, and was nauseous.

"Iâ€¦ wouldn't know where to start" Laxus looked thoroughly confused before becoming angry.

I'm not good with these kinds of things damn it! I'm just going to hurt him more Laxus was angry with himself.

"Ask him to go with you to that mango smoothie stand that opened up in Magnolia. Then just say what feels right. Freed enjoys your company well enough for a stupid dragon slayer" Bickslow smirked at him making Laxus drop his shoulders in defeat.

Laxus made an about face before walking to the rune mage, nervous.

Please say yes. I think it's about time I make your pain go away and figure out these feelings I'm having about your cute little selfâ€¦ stopâ€¦ back upâ€¦ I did not just say that did I? Laxus thought before straightening significantly up, making his way to the other side of the pool.

Evergreen looked confused at Bickslow who was smiling proudly. Ever immediately raced over jumping on him and demanding to know what exactly he did to their beloved leader.

"I told you not to meddle and what do you do?" Ever seethed, "YOU MEDDLE!"

"Jeez! Shut up woman or they'll hear you!" Bickslow quickly clamped his hand over Evergreens mouth. Truth be told, most of the guild members knew how Freed felt towards Laxus, but no one knew whom Laxus liked at all; or if he even liked anyone. Everyone also knew that Mira only like Laxus as a friend saying he wasn't her type of something. After Ever's little outburst, some of the guild members were glancing to Laxus, who was making his way towards Freed, wondering with baited breathe what was about to go down between the two (secretly there was also a betting pool between the two but lets not tell them that)!

* * *

><p>In a Dark Hallway of the Guild that Leads to the Pool Area Which is completely Empty Except for a Single Person (Yes I know this is a long title (._.))

"No! If Laxus ends up with Freed it'll be a mockery to Fairy Tail and to the Dreyer family! He's just confused! Yes that's it, confused! That greened haired little minx is just trying to put himself into the spotlight! No! I should be in the spotlight! I won't let you ruin Laxus or the family name with your homosexual misconceptions you little bitch! I will make sure your heart is destroyed and that you will never want to be near Laxus or Fairy Tail again! *insert evil cackle*

"Reverse emotion, hatred times three! Dark spell!" And thus a horrific spell was caste on a few choice members of Fairy tail.

* * *

><p>Shit is About to Hit the Fan. Prepare for Angst and Derogatory words! And Also Maybe Have a Few Tissues at the Ready; Not Kidding You Have Been Warned.

Natsu lifted his nose up for a moment, smelling something strange, before getting his head dunked into the water by Gray.

"Freed" Laxus said gently making Freed snap his head up to Laxus before standing at attention in front of him.

"Is something wrong Laxus?" Freed was worried seeing Laxus looking nervous.

So cute when you behave like that; your eyes always gleam when you look at me. Such a beautiful blueâ€|

"There kind of is but maybe we should talk about itâ€| someplace private?" Laxus directed his hand in a motion that meant to leave the pool area.

"Of course Laxus" Freed whispered.

It isn't what you think; stop overreacting! If he hasn't conveyed his feelings to you now then he never is! Freed thought miserably.

Just when Freed started to turn around, Laxus, Bickslow, Evergreen, Mirajane and Erza saw something dark cross their vision. Laxus suddenly grabbed Freed's arm, no longer in control of his body or voice for that matter.

What the hell!?!

"Maybe I'll just say it here!" Laxus burst out his eyes becoming cruel and his mouth quirked into an evil smirk.

"L-Laxus.. what-"

"You love me right? Well maybe I wasn't clear with you! I don't need a disgusting fag's hands all over me saying my name with a dirty cock sucking mouth! That's all you wanted from me right? My cock!" Everyone gasped in shock at the cruel words, Freed frozen in terror his heart beating so rapidly it would have burst from his chest.

I don't mean that! What the hell! I like you Freed! I like you, I like you, I like you-

"Ha! I still don't think he gets it Laxus" Bickslow piped up, "course fags like him only think about one thing right!"

"Fag!"

"Fag!"

Bickslow's little tikis sang.

_What the shit! Those aren't my words! _

Everyone's mouths were dropped down at this point, too shocked to move.

"It was rather embarrassing having a homo in the group anyway to be honest! I mean it made us look ridiculous having a fag in the Rijinshuu! People probably thought we were just pitying you *snort* but of course we were!" Ever laughed horribly before slapping her hands over her mouth tears coming to her eyes.

H-How cruel! This isn't me!

"Ever!" Elfman piped up, horrified by what she just said but Ever furrowed her brow looking confused.

"It's about time you guys got rid of the eyesore honestly. Fairy tail, having a homosexual member is bad for business and ruins our Nakama's name" Erza tutted making Jellal snap his head to her. Erza slapped her hand over her mouth looking confused at Jellal.

What were those words that just came out! I'd never say that! Love is love!

"Teehee. Besides Freed" Mira walked over to Laxus, slinging herself practically over him, "what would he want with a no body like you when he can have me. At least I know I could pleasure him properly and do the guild proud. So a useless little _thing _like you should have gotten that through your head by now. Maybe we should show you what proper fucking looks like" Mira gave another giggle before immediately freezing.

_I don't feel that way about Laxus __at all__nor do I think that way about Freed!_

"That sounds good. Although I don't need him thinking about me in any more of his dirty disgusting fantasies" Laxus growled, removing his hand from Freed's arm (which was bruised) before punching Freed in the face _hard._ Freed coughed up some blood, tears spilling from his cheeks, before running out of the pool area.

Everyone froze. The black vision that crossed over their eyes left again after 20 minutes of frozen shock before Natsu sniffed the air in question.

"FREED!" Laxus yelled in horror, dropping to his knees, "I REALLY LIKE YOU!" That got everyone to move to Laxus.

"What the hell just happened!?" Ever burst out.

"Those weren't my words at all!"

"Me either!"

"I'd never say something like that to Freed!"

"Laxusâ€¦!" Wendy whispered, touching his shoulder gently, "Gajeel-sama and I overheard your conversation with Bickslow, what just happened doesn't make any sense!"

"What conversation?" Jellal wanted to know what the hell was going on

just as badly as everyone else. Even though it was embarrassing, Bickslow explained the conversation he had with Laxus before. After that everyone understood Laxus' had at least romantic feelings for the rune mage, so what the hell happened?

"I smelled something weird a few times but wasn't sure what it was" Natsu butted in trying to explain the smell to the other dragon slayers.

"God damn it! We have to get to Freed! Natsu, Gajeel, Wendy find the smell! Ever, Bickslow, Elfman, Lisanna, Gray, Juvia, make sure no one leaves town! Laxus-" Cana began shouting, "get your ass off the floor and explain EVERYTHING to Freed!" Cana lifted up the angry and confused man who burst out into a run, determined to get back his Freed.

You have given me too many chances Freed. I beg you, out of selfishness, give me one more.

"Mira, Erza" Cana began as the two women looked _livid_.

"What exactly were you feeling when the words were coming out of your mouth? Anything weird before or after?" Levy asked wondering what strange spell was at work here. It would have to be a pretty skilled person to control the movements of five people. Lucy looked to be thinking along the same lines as Levy.

They all knew one thing for sure, someone messed with their nakama and they were going to pay dearly.

* * *

><p>Was that enough drama? Yes? I thought so! (â€¢_â€¢)
Comment how you like it so far! This is my first Fairy Tail story after all! Hope my characters aren't too OOC.

3. Took the Midnight Train Going Anywhere

So sorry for the shit-storm of angst *bows 100 times*. And yes, I did name this chapter after the lyrics for "Small Town Girl" by Journey.

* * *

><p>Earlier, Freed had picked out a lower ranking S-class mission for his team and gave it to Warren who was in charge of the bar while everyone was in the pool (he doesn't like water â€" totally making that up, I have no idea). The S-class mission detailed several large beasts roaming in a forest near the town of Stormsky (also making that up) who assigned the mission. The beasts had their own armor and were great pack hunters. It was mentioned that the armor repelled all kinds of magic, so defeating or scaring the beasts off was impossible. The beasts also had come down to the village to kill off some of the people just for fun.<p>

Since Freed was in charge of most of the missions, and this one paid fairly well, he thought he would bring it up to the team after the party.

However, as Freed ran out of the pool area and away from all the cruel words, he demanded Warren give him the mission (scaring and worrying the poor guy since Freed was bleeding) before running out of the guild hall finally letting his tears fall.

Freed ran and ran until he got to his apartment. Most of the Raijinshuu shared the large apartment, which was for five people. It had three bathrooms, a living room, and a kitchenette. Freed startled most of the pedestrians before slamming through the front door, slamming it closed, dropping to his knees. A strangled cry left his lips as he gripped where his heart was beating frantically behind his chest. Freed rocked backward and forward as globules of tears and mucous ran down his face. Strangled cries left his lips as he forced himself up and grabbed his pre-made to go pack for emergency missions. He suddenly felt physically ill before throwing up in the bathroom.

_He LOATHES me. He doesn't dislike me, he __hates__ me. My family hates me! _Freed sobbed _they all think I'm disgusting. I'm just a disgusting fag. I'm dirty, dirty, dirty!_

Freed ran from his apartment, headed for the train station out of Magnolia the cruel words circling in his head. His best friend's words, Erza's words, Mira all _over_ him. If they didn't want him fine. If they truly thought that way about him then he was sure the other guilds would too. He really wasn't anything to anyone. Freed clapped a hand over his mouth to stop the sounds of his sobbing from spilling out.

He boarded the last train out of Magnolia for the day that was headed in the direction of Stormsky. Whether it was out of sheer luck, fate, or misfortune, Freed wasn't seen boarding the train from the members of Fairy Tail who were specifically looking for him and the cruel perpetrator. Laxus was too late in following Freed's trail to the apartment, smelling Freed's tears, his blood, and the fact that he had been sick.

Laxus was kneeling at the entranceway, head in his hands as a few of his own tears slipped down his cheeks.

I won't ever stop looking for you Freed. You are mine and I will prove it to you.

* * *

><p>The train was an overnight train as was the next one Freed was getting on. It would take up to four days to get to Stormsky by train. Freed didn't mind though. His mind was blank. If he thought of anything other than the many ruins he had memorized over the years, the depression in his heart and mind would set in.<p>

He may not have been wanted, but he was going to make this last job count for Fairy Tail even if it cost him his life. Even if it meant breaking the third rule Fairy Tail had and Freed _never _broke rules. This job wasn't meant to be a solo mission. The flier recommended that a team of at least four or five people with one or more S class mages would be best.

Freed had been sleeping like shit nonetheless with dreams that made him wake up in tears and feel physical ill.

How could there be so much hatred towards me after all these years? It doesn't make sense! Somebody would have said something considering no one can keep their mouth closed long, or at least not be obvious about it!

_Why do you hate me Laxus? Is it really just a guy liking you? Or is it because ___I___ like you?_

Freed brushed his hair until it was fluffy again since it distracted him from everything else. He hadn't really been sleeping or eating and in a few hours he would arrive at the town looking like crap. He would follow this through to the end though.

* * *

><p>When Laxus had traced Freed's scent to the train station, after getting out of his stupor at the apartment, he broke down in anger destroying most of the station. Ever and Bickslow had to calm him down enough to get him back to Fairy Tail since his grandfather was probably the best at calming him down.<p>

So there he sat at a table, head in his hands as he listened to the conversation around him, his headphones slung around his neck.

"Did you guys find anything in those books?"

"If anything, this is the book the spell would be in, but the rest have been a bust."

"What about you guys? Track the scent?"

"The scent lead out of the hallway of the pool area and out the back of the guild."

"It was weird though since it seemed to just disappear in the middle of the road."

"Does anyone know what train Freed could have taken?"

"At the time frame from when Freed left the guild to when Laxus tracked his scent to the train station, six trains had left to six different places."

Everyone sighed in defeat while Lucy and Levy continued to look through dusty old books.

"How is Laxus doing?" Someone whispered to Makarov. Makarov only shook his head in resignation. Considering Laxus' reaction to the whole thing, there was no doubt in the old man's mind that Freed was indeed his mate. He'd have to explain that to Laxus and the other dragon slayers later.

Laxus slammed his hands down on the table in frustration, scaring most of the members, before pacing around the guild angrily.

"AHA!" Levy yelled out in triumph causing several members to circle around her while everyone else gave her their full attention.

"I'm sure this is it so let me know if it sounds like what happened."

'Reverse emotion is a dark spell that can usually be cast by mid to high level mages; especially those who are good with dark spells or curses. The spell is temporary, depending on how long the castor can keep concentration of the spell. Certain people can be chosen by the castor for the spell, however, the more people there are the harder it is to control. It has only been recorded that up to six people is the maximum amount a high level mage can control.

Reverse emotion is exactly how it sounds. If person A likes person B, the castor can reverse the emotion so person A dislikes person B. Depending on how far the castor wants to reverse the emotion, it can turn even love interests into hatred by multiplying the magical amount into the spell by a certain number. Example: times two is said during the casting of the spell, which would be twice the amount of hatred, requiring twice the amount of magical power. While the person/people under the dark spell still have consciousness of what they are doing, the castor can manipulate what the possessed person does or says.

Please note, once the spell has been cast, it cannot be cast on the same people again by that castor. It has also been noted that black mist goes over the eyes of the selected person/people the spell was targeted to.'

Those that were under the spell nodded their heads. It sounded exactly like that.

"So you're saying that somehow a high level mage snuck into Fairy Tail specifically to break Freed away from everyone? Why?" Natsu scratched his head. It was a good question, which is why it was weird to hear it from Natsu.

"It doesn't matter why. The bastard is dead and I am going to get Freed back" Laxus growled, crossing his arms.

"Laxus. If we understand why a person attacked Freed, we can either understand who the person is and where they ran off to or even where Freed is." Makarov explained. Laxus grudgingly nodded looking away from his grandpa, making the old man sigh out sadly.

Laxus was itching to tear down the place if someone didn't give him something about Freed in the next few minutes.

"Maybe it was a mage from the dark guild we just defeated?" Lucy questioned making the others think.

"I'm afraid not. All the members of that guild were accounted for and placed into prison," Mira said sadly making everyone slump.

"Well there can't be many mages who use dark magic right? I mean most of the Raijinshuu can use some form of dark magic. Do you think that's a connection?" Cana asked while sucking down liquor. Everyone nodded that it was a weird coincidence.

"Is it some form of eye magic Levy?" Evergreen asked curiously. Levy went to the back of the book to see what was listed under eye magic.

"Huhâ€¦ it says that eye and physical hand magic must be used to caste the spell."

"So it is related to what we can do!" Evergreen asked excitedly thinking things were finally getting somewhere, even getting Lexus' attention.

"Hey! What if it was someone who wanted to be apart of the Raijinshuu but got rejected" Lucy piped up making everyone curious.

"There are a few people a year who request to join the Raijinshuu, but we've never approved any of them" Bickslow piped up.

"Do you remember any of them? Any of them stand out?"

Lexus, Evergreen, and Bickslow just shrugged at each other, not really remembering anyone that stood out to them.

"Hey, what's going on?" Warren gave a sleepy yawn as Mira smiled sadly at him. The guy had fallen asleep at the bar at least six hours ago. Everyone kept talking trying to figure something out. Mira carefully and slowly told him what happened making Warren more and more shocked by the second.

"So now we are trying to find out who the castor is or at least which one of the trains Freed could have gotten on," Mira finished sadly as everyone was in their own little group trying to figure out where their family member went.

"Umâ€¦ Freed went to the town of Stormsky" Warren said with confusion making everyone's head snap to him at the same time, creepily.

"What?" Lexus said with a low voice that made everyone's hair on the back of his or her necks stand straight up in fear. Warren was shaking terribly.

"Explain how you know this" Lexus all but bellowed out, prepared to choke the terrified man.

"Sh-Shouldn't you know that?" Warren all but squeaked out.

"HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW THAT!?" Lexus was about to choke him before being held back by Erza and gramps.

"W-Well Freed picked out an S-class mission for you guys to go on and it was in the town of Stormsky. He asked me to hold it for you guys until after the party so he could ask if you guys wanted to go. U-Umâ€¦ are you guys meeting him there? The flier asked for four to five mages, including one or more S-class mages for the task." Warren was sweating bullets before team Lexus and team Natsu ran out of the guild headed for the first train that went in the direction of Stormsky.

"W-Was it something I said guild master?" Warren asked worriedly.

"No. It was very helpful for this situation. Warren, contact the train conductor and let him know that a section of the train needs to be open for 8 members of fairy tail."

"Yes sir!" Warren put his fingers to his head hoping Freed was found

quickly.

Don't you do anything stupid until I get there Freed. Wait for me my mate Laxus chanted in his head worriedly. His heart constricted at the word mate before Laxus all but dashed out of the apartment with little more than the clothes on his back along with the other seven members of Fairy Tail that were going with him.

* * *

><p>Totally made up most of Warren's character :P Not that sorry about that REVIEW PLEASE!

4. Beast Mode

When Freed reached the mayor's house, him and his wife were surprised to see just Freed there (looking ill and tired and sad). Of course Freed convinced them that he would try his best; Fairy Tail had the reputation of being surprising in every way possible so the mayor let him do as he pleased. If there were any chance to resolve the situation, the mayor would do it.

Freed walked out to the edge of town before following the dirt path that led into the thick forest, as per instructed by the mayor. But to tell the truth, he wasn't thinking about the deranged rabid beasts that were probably lurking in the shadows near him. No. He was thinking about Laxus. How Laxus used to smile at him, trust him with everything. Freed was going to miss those days the most. The days where they could just walk together as friends and enjoy the others company in a comfortable silence. Laxus would even take off his headphones around him!

No, stopping thinking like that brainâ€¦| Freed though depressed. If he lived through this mission he wasn't going to return to Fairy Tail anyway.

I'm going to miss you Laxus. And I'm definitely going to miss my family. How loud they are. How excitable they get at the smallest of things. How they always start fights and protect each other to the end. I'm going to miss it all.

Freed let a single tear slip from his eye, hidden by his bangs, before letting it roll down his cheek instead of wiping it away.

Growl

Freed immediately stopped before unsheathing his blade. He made a full 360 degrees before placing runes around himself as protection. If the beasts couldn't be attacked with magic, then he would protect himself with magic. If that worked, he'd observed how they attack and work as a team.

Freed was about a mile or so into the dense forest before seeing seven giant beasts slowly leave the forest to start circling around Freed. They were observing him. Seeing if he was going to attack them with magic.

Interestingâ€¦|

The beasts were black with strange tribal markings all over their body. Four of the smaller beasts had the white tribal tattoos, two had blue tribal tattoos, and the largest and most gruesome looking one had red tribal tattoos. They looked like giant deranged, hairless dogs with huge paws and ears, and long tails that had dangerous looking spikes on them. There were also spikes that ran down the middle of their backs and some of the spikes were scattered here and there on their bodies.

_I've never seen or heard of creatures like these, where did they come from? The mountains? Caves? _

As Freed thought of different things, one of the smaller white ones seemed to get impatient before lunging to attack. Freed readied his blade incase his runes didn't hold.

Yes!

The runes shuttered under the quake of the hit the white beast struck. Freed knew his runes wouldn't last long under such brute force so he had to think quickly.

Freed threw a light rune at the white one that just attacked him, but it didn't seem to phase it in the least.

_Not sensitive to light so it didn't come from a cave of some sort, nor would it hunt in the dark. But I guess this would confirm it considering they are attacking me in broad daylight. _

Before he could throw another elemental rune at one, his barrier was broken by a blue beast making Freed quickly release his rune wings to get out of their fast. However, when he was a few feet off the ground, he was smacked down to the ground hard and rolled a few yards. It seemed that the red beast had wings, while the others didn't and it had stopped him from flying away. Its wings blended in with its back so Freed didn't even notice it before.

_So the red one is the leader. If the blue one could break the barrier than they are probably the captains. The white ones are followers if I had to guess. _

Freed's eyes widened as a white beast shot light at him from its mouth. Freed quickly drew a rune to stop the light from hitting him.

So they can use magic, but magic doesn't affect them? How strange. I wonderâ€¦!

Freed created some fire before throwing it at a blue beast which shot a water ball at it. He then threw a water blast at the red beast before it shot the water with a fire blast; which was rather powerful it knocked Freed down to the ground again.

I bet Natsu would like to fight the red beast. The blue beasts deal with mostly water and the white beasts deal with light! No wonder my light rune didn't have an effect on it!

Out of nowhere though, the giant red beast had the tribal tattoo colors change from red to yellow. It had electricity buzz around its

body before one second it was in front of him to being behind him in the next second. It shot lightning at Freed from its mouth making Freed fly hard into a tree.

The now yellow beast changed its color back to red while the blue beasts changed to a light blue/white color and the white beasts changed to a gray color.

They can change what magic they want to use on their prey? How is that possible?

Freed's vision was getting fuzzy from the lack of sleep and food he hadn't been getting.

Maybe this wasn't a good ideaâ€¦!

Freed knew he already had several bruises starting to form on his body but he meant what he said. He was going to fight to the end for Fairy Tail. He was out numbered and he had to be especially careful around the red beast. Before he knew it all seven were attacking him. Ice came out of the light blue beasts making Freed run to the side before shadows tried to tug him into the line of fire from the gray beasts. Freed jumped into the sky to fly away from them with his rune wings before the red beast flew at him, claws extended, striking Freed hard out of the air. Freed's head hit the ground hard making him see red and black in his vision. His entire side was numb and he felt something wet running down his head and nose.

But that's when he heard the most wonderful thing in the world.

"FREED!"

_My family is here! But why? Why would they want to save me? They hate me, don't they? Please don't pity me. _

Out of the blurriness of his eyes, he saw Laxus, as roaring thunder clouds were getting near him. Freed saw from his peripheral that the red beast was about to slash down on him once more, which would have ended his life, he was sure. But a burst of lightning so powerful shot over Freed and hit the beast, making it fly into a tree.

"Get the hell away from my mate!" Laxus roared as he stood protectively over Freed. Freed saw Natsu, Gray, Lucy, Erza, Wendy, Bickslow, and Evergreen running towards them as the other beasts regrouped for an attack.

"What the hell are these things!?" Ever yelled out

"I've never seen or heard of them before in any books or from any person!" Lucy yelled out, readying her keys.

"Well I'm getting fired up!" Natsu roared making Gray smirk.

Freed couldn't see them very well anymore. They were all so very blurry.

"Freed?" Laxus looked down with worry before his eyes widened in shock. Laxus bent down, keeping his eye on the beast before quickly looking over Freed.

"He has some bad injuries. Wendy!" Laxus called over making the girl hurry over with Charle.

"Laxusâ€¦ why?" Freed whispered out in pain, tears leaving him.

"You weren't supposed to do anything stupid till I got here" Laxus said with fake scolding. He slowly wiped Freed's tears away but only more replaced them.

"Heyâ€¦" Laxus whispered.

"This isn't the time for that, they are going to attack any minute!" Erza yelled out. As much as everyone wanted to explain the situation to Freed, getting him and themselves safely out of there was first priority.

"Red one. Is the leader. Has wings. Changes between. Fire and Lightning. Blues are water and ice. White is light and shadows." Freed tried to get the words out but something was stabbing him in the chest.

"Please don't speak anymore Freed-san! You have a puncture to your lung!" Wendy said with worry.

"Oh yeah! My kind of fight!" Natsu yelled out.

"Thanks Freed" Laxus shuffled his green hair, skewing the little lightning fly away he had, noting how soft his hair was in his hands for a moment.

"Lets show them how the Raijinshuu kick ass babies!" Bickslow yelled as Freed's family dove into the fight.

Freed was losing consciousness slowly, but it seemed that the beasts were tough opponents. Either way though, Freed knew his family could defeat anything in their way so he didn't mind losing the last of his consciousness while his eyes followed the yellow blur that was his Laxus.

"Freed-san stay awake!" Wendy cried making Ever, Bicks, and especially Laxus, lose concentration for just a moment in the fight.

You'll kick their asses guys, I know it.

"Freed-san!"

And then there was darkness.

* * *

><p>Before you say Freed could take a lot more damage than that with his Dark Ã&criture: Darkness mode, thingy, remember that he is completely off his game! He hasn't eaten or slept well in four days and so he wasn't really mentally or physically ready for that battle. Other than that... I tried to get Freed's character of being really smart and observant while fighting so... I hope I pulled that off! Next is protective Laxus (nudge, nudge, wink, wink).

5. Polyusica's

Freed could hear several things. It started off as soft whispers but he couldn't make out what they were saying just yet. He was on something kind of hard, but very comfy, and it smelled AMAZING. It smelled like just cologne at first, but then a scent of sweet apples and the smell of rain before the storm would waft up his nose. He breathed in deeply feeling so comfortable and relaxed which he hadn't been in a while.

But then he started to pick up the conversation around him and even realized he was moving.

"What's this mate thing gramps was talking about anyway?" Lucy asked curiously for Natsu who was on the verge of throwing up.

"No idea. Gramps was going to talk to me about it when we got back" Laxus whispered tightening his grip around Freed. Freed's lung was badly damaged but Wendy got it to the point where he would be okay for a few days. He'd have to see Porlyusica immediately when they got back to Magnolia however.

As for the beasts, they were defeated with some difficulty leaving the group badly bruised but their spirits were never brighter. Freed was in Laxus' lap, bridal style since Wendy said he'd have to be in a sitting position for a while to help decrease the internal bleeding and pressure on his lungs. Of course Laxus picked him up bridal style after the fight and hasn't removed him from his arms since that moment. Now they were on the train headed for Magnolia and they'd be there in 10 hours.

Freed had been sleeping for the last three days, unknowingly in Laxus' arms.

"How come you aren't sick Laxus, like Natsu?" Ever asked curiously. Bickslow and Ever didn't leave Laxus' side the moment they left the battlefield considering they knew Laxus wasn't about to put the man down if they had to get in another fight again. Of course they'd be the first people to get through if someone was going to attack Laxus while Freed was unconscious in his arms. All of them badly wanted to tell Freed what really happened that day, but Freed hadn't woken up long enough to comprehend anything around him.

"It's his scent. It doesn't make me feel nauseous when on something moving" Laxus said quietly, secretly trying not to bury his nose into the unconscious greenette's hair.

"His scent doesn't smell any different to me" Wendy squeaked out, also nauseous.

"What does it usually smell like?" Gray asked curiously since he didn't go around smelling people; though I guess its inevitable if you're a dragon slayer.

"Well it usually smells like his shampoo which I think is some kind of flower something or other," Wendy said before landing next to Natsu.

"It's usually something nice to smell" Natsu groaned into the floor of the train, "what is it now?"

"It's likeâ€¦ freshly rained on roses and fresh brewed coffee" Laxus said, trying to place the smells.

"I don't smell that at all"

"Me either"

They all got close trying to see if they could smell what Laxus was talking about before he started growling at them making them back off.

"Maybe its that mate thing gramps was talking about" Bicks thought curiously.

"Mate!"

"Mate!"

His tikis flew around happily making Ever slap at them in annoyance.

Freed was wondering what 'mate thing' they were talking about and why they were even being nice to him. He couldn't go back to Fairy Tail! Not after his family practically threw him out. No one even stopped him from leaving the guild!

Freed didn't know whether to blush or cry at the conversation, but he realized that once Laxus had growled, he felt hands tighten around him before realizing Laxus was holding him.

I'm on Laxus' lap! *Swoon*

The train suddenly jerked forward, making Natsu and Wendy even more nauseous and for Freed to groan loudly in pain once the train returned to its normal pace. Before Laxus could even worriedly yell for Wendy to check on him, she went over to help Freed even in her current state.

"That damn conductor!" Laxus growled.

"Calm down Laxus" Erza waved her hand at him to continue sitting, "you don't want to jostle around or yell in Freed's current state do you?" Erza said slyly knowing that would probably get Laxus to remain somewhat calm until the ride ended. Said man only harrumphed at her watching Wendy's hands on Freed's chest, checking his lung.

"It still okay?" Ever asked worriedly.

"The cut in his lung is getting worse. He'll have to go to Porlyusica's immediately when we get off. The claws on the red beast must have had something on them to slow my healing magic on him," Wendy said sadly making Laxus angry at the stupid creatures along with everyone else.

"I wish we got there soonerâ€¦" Natsu said sadly making everyone's shoulders drop at the comment.

"What's done is done. We will all just have to overcome this together," Erza said gently, directing the comment mostly towards the Raijinshuu group in front of her who were looking morbidly at their friend.

The train ride was going to be a long one.

* * *

><p>When the train finally arrived in Magnolia, Erza had to stop all seven of her teammates from leaping off while the train was still in motion. Of course when the train did stop, Laxus was the first off the train, headed for Porlyusica's (Bickslow and Ever behind him but were getting further and further from him since Laxus was moving so fast).<p>

Erza, Gray, and Lucy headed back to the guild to let everyone know what happened. Lucy especially wanted Levy's help in identifying the beasts they fought against.

Wendy, Natsu, Happy, and Charle were after the Raijinshuu team.

"Old Hag!" Laxus yelled out making Porlyusica slam her front door open angrily.

"What you damn human!?" Porlyusica was about to yell at him some more before seeing the greenette looking ill in his arms.

"Explain idiot"

As much as Laxus hated letting Freed out of his arms, he gently laid the man where Porlyusica directed him.

These feelings are so weird to me right now, but I don't really mind them since I really like having Freed around me like this.

As Laxus explained everything from the pool incident to the mission, Porlyusica looked sadly at the greenette she was healing.

"Hey..." was whispered by Ever who had a curious Bickslow, Natsu, and Wendy by the door.

"Stop standing around brats! Either get in or get out!" Porlyusica yelled making the four people scurry behind Laxus.

"Wendy, your work on the lung was good. Come here a moment"
Porlyusica had been teaching Wendy some healing techniques over the years.

Laxus was reluctant to leave Freed alone in the room, but knew he would only get in Porlyusica's way thus preventing Freed from getting the help he needed. Laxus couldn't have that, so he waited and he was going to wait there no matter how long it took.

Bicks ran off to get food knowing they were all hungry. He was surprised Porlyusica didn't kick Natsu out yet for his snoring. It was now nightfall and Laxus would walk around Porlyusica's house, making sure he wasn't too far from the house. He was thinking over everything. Freed's feelings, how he was going to talk to him, the right words to use, what not to say, how to convince him that Laxus

didn't just care, but wanted to be with Freed after all these years. It was going to be hard but he was willing to try.

After Laxus was finished with his walk in a giant circle and some stretching, which the others had been doing too, he walked back in wondering if the old lady would let him sleep there. Of course he was sure Porlyusica knew he would put up a fuss if she tried to make him leave.

"Okay brats" Porlyusica walked out of the room Freed was in making everyone's attention snap to her (even Natsu woke up immediately from his napping).

"His lung is badly damaged but as long as he is able to drink the medicine I put together, once he wakes up, he should heal in about three to four weeks."

"When will he be awake?"

"Soon."

"What the hell does that mean old hag?" Laxus growled making Porlyusica scowl angrily at him.

"Do I look like a timer to you!? He'll wake up eventually brat!" Porlyusica stomped to her room, Wendy looking tired as she left Freed's room also with Charle.

"It shouldn't be long now Laxus-sama. Maybe a day?" Wendy said gently hoping it would calm Laxus back down.

"Well I'm staying here then until he wakes up!" Laxus yelled out making Porlyusica yell at him for being a moron and to go home, from her room.

"I'm already comfy in this spot so I call it!" Natsu yelled out along with happy.

"No way I want that spot!" Bicks shouted, pushing Natsu over which started a scuffle between the two.

"Well a lady needs her beauty sleep so I'm getting the couch" Ever tried sounding suave but only had eyes rolled at her. Of course Wendy was able to convince her to share the couch with her and Charle.

In the middle of the night, with much snoring from pretty much every person in the room, Porlyusica walked out of her room to make sure everything was alright. A few hours earlier she nearly threw them out for almost destroying her house for the last piece of mango candy, idiots. Porlyusica looked around for a moment before noticing Laxus was not amongst them. She quickly went to Freed's room before a soft smile made its way onto her face (not that she'd ever admit to that happening).

Laxus was in a chair, head resting on Freed's bed right next to his hand. It was kind of funny looking since Laxus was such a large guy and the bed and Freed were much smaller. Porlyusica quickly checked Freed, noticing Laxus stiffen for a moment.

_Dragon slayers. Always light sleepers around people that are the

most important to them._

Lexus was maybe half awake, but could probably tell Porlyusica's scent was in the room meaning she was probably just checking on Freed.

I guess this means that he trusts me with Freed. That's rather rare for a dragon slayer and their mate. Has that old geezer Makarov explained mates to you yet boy? He should get to that soon or even more chaos will probably ensue. Although from what I can see, there is no marking on him. So now is probably the only time you'd trust me with Freed unless he is injured againâ€¦ maybe.

Porlyusica made a huff in amusement before leaving the room once more. Lexus opened his eyes blearily seeing Freed in the same position as before, before placing his cheek on Freed's fingertips. Conscious or not, Freed's touch was very soothing to Lexus, calming him down.

Wake up soon Freed. So much I need to tell you. Rejecting me or not after I say what needs to be said, I just want to see you smile again.

* * *

><p>(Early Evening the Next Day)

Numbnessâ€¦ Painâ€¦ what?

Freed could feel a sort of comforting energy around him from time to time. It smelled the way it did on the train; of sweet apples and rain before a storm.

Such a nice smell.

Freed was comfortable, but then something worried him on the edges of his mind before he shot up in fear.

_Fairy Tail! The beastsâ€¦ Lexus? _Freed was now sitting up in a bed before looking around. It looked very familiar before realizing he was in Porlyusica's home. He looked down to his chest seeing heavy bandages before remembering Wendy telling him his lung was damaged during the battle.

What the heck happened!? Is everyone okay? How could I have been so stupid to have taken that missionâ€¦ even breaking the rules! It's not likeâ€¦ I'd be welcome back to Fairy Tail anywayâ€¦

Freed sighed sadly, wiping a lone tear before hearing soft feet next to him. His head snapped up seeing a sad look on Porlyusica's face.

"Is everyone okay?" Freed croaked out before touching his throat at the weird way that came out.

"Yes. Some bruising but they'll all live" Porlyusica nodded before checking on his chest.

"It's fine. Thank you Porlyusica-san. I'll just leave now. I know how you are bothered by humans after all right?" Freed wanted to get out

of there, needing to avoid his old team before anything else happened.

"You have misunderstood something child. You will stay here for a few days to drink the medicine I have made specifically for your lung. Then you will listen to your friends."

Freed stiffened in fear, his heart beating wildly.

"Iâ€| can't hear those words againâ€|don't you understand that!" Freed was on the verge of tears "please let me leave!"

Porlyusica gently put her hand on his shoulder as Freed shook, trying to hold in his tears.

"Like I said before, a grave misunderstanding. They all care about you deeply and went after you to save you. That should be enough to convince you to hear what they have to say"

Freed just looked at her confused, hardly believing what she was saying to him.

"Iâ€|" Freed began to shake his head 'no' before Porlyusica shoved the steaming cup of medicine into his hands. Freed drank it slowly, grimacing at the taste, before gulping the rest of that down.

"Thatâ€| was disgusting"

"Don't complain brat! It'll help and you will drink it, damn it, or so help me!" Porlyusica growled making Freed shy away from the angry woman.

"Even if you left, the people that have been waiting for you to wake up, will never stop trying to find you. Especially Laxus" Porlyusica left Freed to rest, who tiredly shut his eyes not understanding what the woman meant, willing his tears to not fall.

All was in vain though when he fell asleep, tear tracks evident down his cheeks. Laxus returned from his walk a little while later, with the others (who had stopped by the guild except for Laxus who was not going to leave Freed there alone).

Laxus frowned, becoming angry with himself and saddened at how Freed had been crying, evidently showing how he felt when he must have woken up (Porlyusica told him before).

"Freed" Laxus whispered into his ear, "I really do like you, you know?" Laxus rested his head on top of Freed's bed again hearing the others enter the room.

"I suggest you all stay on high alert. Freed doesn't think you want him here and may try to leave again before you can explain anything," Porlyusica said.

Ever and Bicks frowned unhappily. Erza shook her head while Lucy and Wendy looked down saddened. Natsu and Gajeel saluted the old woman knowing they were on night duty. Of course that's if Freed could get past Laxus.

And Freed was NOT going to get past Laxus.

* * *

><p>I feel... like this was a filler... and yet it wasn't... maybe. What will happen when Freed wakes up? Some form of chaos I'm sure ^^

6. Tears and Confessions

Hey guys! So I made this chapter way longer than my other chapters because I won't be able to add another chapter till the end of the week So enjoy the extra-ness! :D

* * *

><p>1:02AM

Freed was a little hungry and very groggy. Plus his chest ached badly and it wasn't just from the wound. Freed fluttered his eyes open glancing around the wooden room noticing it was pitch dark outside.

It's probably best if I left now. I'll take one more drink of the medicine Porlyusica made me and sneak out.

Porlyusica had left the teapot of medicine on the left side bed table with a cup already prepared for him to drink. Since the stab to his lung was on his right side, it would be easier to grab the cup with his left hand. He drank the disgusting tasting liquid which was supposedly helping his lung. At least she left him some candy mints next to the cup.

Jeez, she must have known how gross this probably tastes Freed quickly popped in a mint candy which was soft and chewy making his mouth taste twenty times better.

Freed rolled his head back to the center of his pillow, feeling exhausted from just drinking and moving that little bit, but wasn't prepared to face his ex-friends; to see the amount of hatred in Laxus' eyes. Freed breathed in deeply, trying to get some of the fog to leave his eyes.

Time to go

Freed felt something soothing and warm touch his fingertips. He looked to his right, holding in a gasp. Laxus was resting his head next to his hand, sleeping soundly. Freed was good at noticing when Laxus was awake and sleeping for the ten years they had been a team.

From what Freed could tell, Laxus was legitimately sleeping, but he probably wasn't deeply asleep. Laxus had only slept deeply a few times in his life; probably a dragon slayer thing.

This was going to be hard.

Why is he even in here? Wouldn't it be hard to be around me? Aren't I disgusting to you Laxus? Why won't you just leave me alone?

Freed could feel the tears brim his eyes but knew that if any left him, the lightning dragon slayer's nose would smell it, changing his sleeping pattern at the moment. Freed had to hold in the pain he was feeling seeing Laxus next to him like this, like he cared.

Freed slowly, very slowly, lifted his hand up and away from Laxus being very sure to stop any and all movement if he saw Laxus' breathing pattern even remotely shift.

Successfully moving his hand away from the dragon slayer, he knew moving his body would be the hardest. He's magic was seriously low at the moment (his body giving most of the energy to heal his damaged lung) so he shouldn't use any runes to help him escape; nonetheless he would try.

He drew one rune to stop the dragon slayer from feeling a shift in weight on the bed. That was as much as Freed could do at the moment, so hopefully any klutziness wouldn't happen. He couldn't have _that _bad of luck, right?

Freed drew in a deep breathe before moving slowly from the bed. The rune held out, thankfully, until Freed was standing on his own two feet on the other side from Laxus.

I'm sorry. There wasn't anything I could do to stop you from hating me, was there?

Freed had to hold in his tears again, his chest aching so horribly he felt physically ill again. Freed would have to leave out the front door considering there was a chance the window in his room would be squeaky (or extra squeaky and loud so he wasn't going to even bother with his luck).

Freed put another rune down on the floor to stop any floor boards from creaking considering one out of place creak would also change Laxus' sleeping pattern. Freed saw black enter his vision for a moment, almost stumbling with uneven footsteps, before getting his grounding back.

Shitâ€¦ I can't use any more of my magic right now or I'll pass out for sure. Then I'd have to face Laxus againâ€¦|hear those cruel things he hates about me so much

Freed finally made it to the doorway, which was thankfully already open, before looking back at the sleeping dragon slayer, his eyes softening and lips quivering.

Goodbye Laxus. I'll always love you I thinkâ€¦| no matter how many years go by.

Freed turned back around, walking out the doorway before stopping in his tracks, sweat dropping.

What are these idiots doing here? Why can't they just leave me be!? I tried to leave! I tried not to fail Fairy Tail one last time! I tried to make your lives easier by not being around you! Why isn't it enough!?!

Freed was really on the verge of tears at this point. Ever, Wendy and

Charle were happily sleeping on the couch. Erza was in a comfy looking rocking chair with Mira; Lucy was on some sort of pillow fort. Bickslow, Natsu, and Gajeel were on the floor snoring god forsakenly loud. It was absolutely packed and Freed wondered for a moment how Porlyusica could even stand all of them being there like this.

Freed was thankful the rune he put on the floorboards spread this far through the house. He was in the middle of the living room, his sadness sinking in on him.

Goodbye my friends. I wish I could have done something to make you hate me lessâ€¦ I'm so sorry.

A tear finally fell from Freed's eye, rolling down his cheek. He suddenly saw Natsu, Gajeel, and Wendy twitch.

Shit! They're going to wake up! Are they already awake!? What if they stop me! What do I do!? No, no, no, no, no.

Freed felt his heart beat out of control seeing the dragon slayers shifting. What if that meant Laxus was also waking up!?

Freed started to panic, breathing becoming labored and probably too loud considering the dragon slayers had excellent hearing. Freed shut his eyes tightly, knowing he was going to regret what he was about to do.

Freed ran out the front door and ran _hard._ He wasn't sure what actually pushed him to run that fast but he was flying through the forest.

"FREED!" Freed could hear a roar from Porlyusica's wondering if he would make it someplace where the dragon slayers wouldn't be able to smell him.

I could sneak in the bake shop or the perfume shop! The smells in there are always strong! The bake shop is closer to here though, right? I can't remember! I'm too panicked.

Now what happened next, Freed wasn't sure. One minute he was using his adrenaline rush to run like a bat out of hell. The next minute his chest was on _fire._ Not literal fire because that would be really concerning, but his chest wound started to bleed, soaking his bandages in blood.

Vision was going spotty. Breathing was becoming difficult. Then a flash of light was right behind him, catching Freed's peripheral vision. Freed fell over his own feet, about to hit the ground hard before a pair of large, strong hands held him tightly to a strong chest. Freed went down to the ground still, with said man, not feeling much of an impact since he was practically surrounded with solid muscle.

Freed's vision was blurry, but he could make out the outline of the bake shop.

_So close â€¦ do I really deserve to hear those words again? _

Freed knew he was automatically in Laxus's arms considering that

apple and rain smell was surrounding Freed strongly, somehow making the pain in his chest lessen.

Freed closed his eyes, everything just _hurting._

"Freed," was whispered in such a sad, soft way that Freed wasn't expecting that to come out of Laxus at all. He was expecting to be yelled at. For the cruel words to be said again or said even crueler this time. But maybe this was a trick. A trick Laxus was going to use to get Freed to look at him so Laxus could see the pain in his eyes.

Laxus was never this cruel before, why now? I don't understand!

"Look at me Freed, please" Laxus breathed against Freed's neck. Freed squeezed his eyes tightly in fear, tears leaving both of his eyes (even evident behind his bangs over his right eye). Freed finally gave in. He was giving up.

Give me it. Tell me how much you hate me! Destroy me completely! Freed thought miserably in his head before opening his eyes at the man above him, tears freely leaving his eyes.

No point in wiping them away, huh? More will just come out until I finally run out of tears and can't cry anymore right?

Freed slowly moved his blue eyes to meet Laxus' gray eyes prepared for the worst. However, Freed was shocked to see mostly pain, sadness, and fear in those dark eyes; even brimmed with tears ready to fall.

Freed looked into his eyes very confused and very surprised by the way Laxus was looking at him right now.

"Idiot! Who do you think you are to run from me?" Laxus started to yell, but by the end of his sentence, his words started shake as though he were going to cry.

"Please— just hear me out one more time. Just hear what I have to say. If you don't like anything I'm about to say to you, you can leave and I won't stop you," Laxus whispered. Freed blinked at him considering Laxus was giving him a choice and not being cruel or mean about it.

"But if you do leave, please promise me you won't put yourself in danger again. I don't think I could take it," Laxus looked at Freed who still hadn't moved. Freed looked away from him, closing his eyes but nodding his head oh so slightly in agreement.

Freed suddenly felt callused yet gentle fingertips on his cheek making him flinch hard thinking Laxus was going to hit him again before feeling something wet on his cheek.

Freed looked back up to see a tear had left Laxus who looked so upset that it kind of made Freed want to hug him in comfort, but stopped the stupid thought from becoming an action.

"I-I'm sorry for scaring you. I won't hit you again, I promise. Though I shouldn't have hit you in the first place, huh?" Laxus gave

the saddest, deep chuckle Freed heard, making Freed feel like Laxus felt exactly how he did at the moment.

But that's not possible.

(All the people that were at Porlyusica's were hiding themselves behind some trees several yards away from the pair, knowing Laxus was the only one that should explain things to Freed right now, even though they all wanted to join in, in the explanation).

"At the pool, there was a person hiding in the hallway that led to the pool," Laxus sighed, noting Freed was listening even though he turned his head again and was facing away from Laxus.

"When all those horrible things were said to you, I was conscious of what I was saying, but I wasn't actually saying any of those things," Laxus saw Freed's brows draw together in confusion.

"Sorryâ€¦ I suck at explaining these things. But I hope you understand in the end even if it takes a couple hours" Laxus scratched the back of his head sheepishly before continuing.

"Because Bickslow, Ever, Erza, Mira and I all said those things to you, we knew that somehow we were controlled in those few minutes to say those things specifically to you. Why? I don't know. If I did, I'd kill the bastard that made me say those cruel things, especially to _you_"

Freed turned his head back so his eyes were looking into Laxus' again, brows still furrowed together in confusion.

"Lucy and Levy were looking through old books and Levy said someone used a dark spell called Reverse Emotion. I didn't really understand everything they were saying but in short, it reverses the emotions of how I really feel about you; how all of us feel about you. She said it was an eye and physical hand magic or something. Lucy thought it might have been someone who wanted to be apart of the Raijinshuu but got rejected. Ever, Bicks and I couldn't remember anybody specifically since we suck at those kinds of things. That's one of your specialties."

Freed looked shocked as the gears in his head started turning at what Laxus just told him.

"Soâ€¦ when I said all those horrible things it really meant that Iâ€¦ I really like you, like you," Laxus had a tint of pink on his cheeks making Freed blush slightly himself.

_Whatâ€¦? Thisâ€¦ This isn't real is it? A dark spell calledâ€¦ reverse emotion? This is crazy! _But something in the back of his mind told him that Fairy Tail usually just dealt in crazy.

"Thisâ€¦" Freed felt how dry his throat was when he said that one word, but noticed Laxus was paying absolute attention to him which kind of made his cheeks want to warm in a blush.

"Isn't real, is it?" Freed said softly, looking away from Laxus, "all of you hate meâ€¦ all of you think I'm disgusting right? That I'm _dirty_. _Something_ dirty doesn't belong in Fairy tailâ€¦ doesn't

belong anywhere," Freed nearly choked out the words as tears left him, unstopping.

"Don'tâ€¦ don't ever say that again about yourself!" Laxus yelled out, tears streaming down his cheeks; unbeknownst to them, their friend also having tears leave them at the bitterness in Freed's voice and how much he hated _himself_. More than them or what any of them said.

"You are the kindest, smartest, most giving, loyal, noble and courageous person I've ever had the pleasure to meet and befriend. I am so lucky to have had you in my life at all!" Laxus grabbed Freed by his shoulders gently; praying to the heavens above Freed wasn't going to flinch from him again. However, Freed was too busy sobbing at the moment to notice such a motion from Laxus.

"You're wholesome and clean and good! You deserve the best because anything less would be offensive to give to you."

Laxus slowly turned Freed's head, gently curling his first finger slightly under his chin to face him again as Freed slowly opened his eyes.

"I'd give you the world and everything in it if it made you happy. If it just made you _smile _again. You've only ever deserved to smile. Not to ever be sad. Not over something you couldn't control. I'm not good with showing my emotions or explaining them, but over the days I couldn't see you I had to find the words to explain how I felt about you. If I didn't, then I would lose you and I _can't _lose you. I don't know if it's because I'm selfish, but I know I'm not the best at being a guild member, or friend, or even a lover if I was ever to become one. You deserve the best. Which is why even though I don't ever want to lose you, its okay if you walk away. I can't be selfish anymore. I don't think my heart could take it to see you hurt like this againâ€¦ because I'm stupid. Because I couldn't stop a stupid spell from being used on me to _hurt _you. I'dâ€¦ only ever break your heart because I'm not the perfect person you deserve in this world," Laxus had tears slowly dripping off his cheeks since he was still hovering over the immobile greenette.

"You'veâ€¦ always been free to leave. So please, stop loving me so your heart doesn't feel any more pain. So you can finally be happy. Pleaseâ€¦ let this love go," Laxus felt his throat tighten up, his heart clenching in pain, holding in the sobs that were sure to fall from his lips any second. He had to let his mate go. He had to let him choose a happy life without him in it.

Please let me free you from this pain

Freed started to sob under Laxus only making Laxus clench his fists into the ground, his heart aching at the pain that was so evident if Freed's voice.

"S-Stupid!" Freed yelled out angrily making Laxus' tears fall more quickly, "you forgot that I'm s-stubborn! I can't let you go. I won't! I've loved you for so long my heart can no longer fall in love with anyone else. I've tried! I have! But my heart and my mind are fixed on you forever. Whether you would have loved me back or not, I would have never truly fallen in love with someone else. And to finally hear you say that you actually like me" Freed sobbed trying

to get out what he needed to, "I won't let you throw away your feelings for me. Not when you just showed them to me! Not when you are my happiness. Let's do this together. Pleaseâ€¦ don't let me walk away or tell me to let this love go again. That was more painful than horrible words said before. Be with me Laxus, however you see fit."

Freed had tears steadily down his cheeks and into the ground underneath him. He suddenly felt Laxus' hands on either side of his face, trying to wipe his unending tears away.

"You'd be stuck with a stubborn idiot for the rest of your life. Who is emotionally inept and can't do well by you" Laxus said sadly, still giving Freed his chance to walk away.

"I'm stubborn too which is how I've stayed so long by your side; I'm not easy to push away. You aren't stupid just because you don't know something. Not everyone is good with emotions and you've always done well by me and everyone at the guild. Whether you've seen it or not, I've seen it. You're a wonderful person Laxus. You aren't just a strong mage but you are also loyal and caring and honest. You care more about others than yourself and you want to give someone else happiness even if that meant you wouldn't be happy anymore. I'dâ€¦ want to be stuck with you forever, because then I'd know I'd be happy forever," Freed gently cradled his hand against Laxus' cheek who leaned into the touch, holding his own hand against Freed's.

Laxus very slowly and very gently kissed Freed. It was a little sloppy and awkward at first, but they slowly started to find their rhythm. Once they found their rhythm, they put as much emotion into the kiss as possible. It would slow, it would speed up, it would be gentle then rough. Tongues would find each other to comfort or fight. But it would return to the sweet gentle kiss that expressed how much they needed and wanted the other. How much they loved the other. When they finally separated for some much needed air, both had red puffy eyes from so much crying and sadness.

They just stared into the others eyes before Laxus carefully held Freed to him, Freed's arms remaining around Laxus' neck where they had found their way during the kiss. They just held each other, their heart rates slowing down; the calm finally taking over.

When Laxus moved away from Freed, who continued to look into his eyes, both of their eyes half lidded. They could see a spark in the others' eyes and their breaths mingled at the closeness. Freed's lips tingled from the kiss, as did Laxus'. Laxus gently touched Freed's soft pink lips, only causing Freed to kiss his fingers softly making Laxus give a small smile. Freed started to blush realizing what he had done, about to turn away again in embarrassment, only to have Laxus move some of his bangs away from his face gently; silently telling Freed he didn't mind at all. Somehow Freed understood because he gave a small smile to Laxus. Laxus kissed him sweet and slow again, their rhythm permanently seared into their brains, before Laxus released Freed's lips again.

Freed couldn't believe what had just happened. What he just said. The fact that Laxus just kissed him was blowing his mind. That Laxus had kissed him twice and initiated it both times! It was like a damn was broken from them and they could kiss each other as much as they liked because they both wanted and needed each and every kiss

the other could give to them.

If this is a dream, it's the best dream of my lifeâ€| but it would also be the cruelest because I would wish for it so badly to be real. It is real, it has to be.

"We should get you back to Porlyusica's to rest. She'll probably be upset you even moved from the bed," Laxus chuckled softly making Freed look worried at the horrible lashing he was going to get from Porlyusica only making Laxus smirk at him, "plus sleeping out here would be really bad for you anyway, though I'd probably have to make you sleep on top of me so you're at least comfortable."

Freed smiled softly at him making Laxus have a tint on his cheeks.

"Iâ€| didn't think you'd smile at me so soon" Laxus said shocked making Freed look confused before understanding what Laxus meant. Laxus had hurt Freed so much that he was sure Freed would never smile at him again.

"Of course I would, you always knew how to make me smile" Freed said softly seeing Laxus becoming less tense. He was afraid of getting into another fight with Freed so soon. But Laxus and Freed both knew they were too stubborn with each other to just let another fight happen; especially over something ridiculous.

"Iâ€| don't want to sleep" Freed began seeing Laxus about to scold him (probably about his health), "because I'm scared this is a dream still."

"I promise you, when you wake up, I'll be right there" Laxus whispered kissing Freed softly on the forehead, making him blush.

"You promise?"

"I promise. I'll even give you a good morning kiss," Laxus winked at him with a smirk making Freed give a huff of a laugh.

"Idiot"

"Told you I was"

Laxus stood up before reaching his hand out for Freed to take. Freed took his hand, feeling warm and gentle sparks running through his hand (silently wondering if Laxus could feel them too).

As things seemed to come back to a normal time frame, since their talk seemed to stop time for a moment, everything came rushing back to Freed. The exhaust from using magic and ripping his recently closed wound again. Freed felt something wet run down his side before the pain shot through his body. Freed gasped, hand gripping his chest over the wound, his knees buckling under him. Freed started coughing violently as blood dripped from his mouth.

"Freed!" Laxus panicked, though he would never full out admit it, quickly let go of Freed's hand to pick him up gently; it only served for Freed's coughing fit to continue.

Lexus knew their friends were somewhere nearby anyway, eavesdropping on the two considering they all wanted to comfort Freed about the horrible spell. Before Lexus could call out to Porlyusica, she came running out to them with Wendy (the others behind them).

Porlyusica shook her head angrily, before sighing.

"He must be brought back now!" Lexus did not have to be told twice as they all ran back to Porlyusica's.

"Freed!" Ever and Bickslow wanted to be there with their friend, but Porlyusica only allowed Lexus in the room at the moment considering she knew what dragon slayers would do if they weren't near their mate (even if they weren't fully mated yet).

"Place him on his left side Lexus"

Lexus did as he was told as he watched Wendy heal from his back and Porlyusica heal from his front. After what seemed like forever, they both stood up and sighed from exhaustion.

"I hate dealing with you humans! I was sleeping so well before you idiots came along!" Porlyusica harrumphed, stomping her way out of the room while yelling at the bystanders outside in the living room.

"He'll be okay Lexus-sama. He really needs to rest and drink the medicine though for at least a week before Porlyusica will let him leave, I'm sure" Wendy whispered, hoping what she said would calm Lexus down since his muscles were very tense at the moment.

"Thank you Wendy, for healing him. You and Porlyusica" Wendy nodded, giving a smile before leaving to see Charle and the others.

Lexus gave a heavy sigh before lying behind Freed, not sure he could be too far away from him now. Freed felt warmth against his back, which somehow eased a little of the pain he was feeling.

Apples.. and rain. Such a nice smell

"Lexus" Freed whispered.

"Shh. You just had a bad coughing fit, I don't think you should be talking okay?" Lexus whispered back. Freed could feel Lexus' breath against his neck making him shudder in the best of ways.

"You'll be here?"

"I promised I would"

"What if I don't wake up for a while,"

"You will since your too stubborn to sleep for so long"

"Itsâ€| not a dream?"

"No. Now hush and go to sleep. If you do I'll kiss you when you wake up. If you're good that is" Lexus chuckled softly making Freed smile.

"Idiot"

"Your idiot?"

"Always"

* * *

><p>Sweet mother of mayhem that was ounces of drama. Hope you can see where the romance is starting to blossom :D! I also had to make a difficult choice. In the manga, Laxus' eyes are orange but in the anime they are gray. I went with gray soâ€¦ hopefully that's okay ^^ Review and let me know how you think the story is going so far!

7. The Meaning of Mates

Lots of important information in this chapter! Plus cute little quirks are coming out ^^

* * *

><p>Freed felt a cool breeze go across his warm skin. He breathed in deeply not feeling too much pain, just an ache from his lung expanding. Freed slowly let his eyes flutter open before looking around, noticing he was back in the room at Porlyusica's.<p>

He closed his eyes again before they snapped open, remembering.

Was thatâ€¦ real? Freed looked around the room, noticing no chairs around his bed and the window was open letting in the breeze he felt earlier.

Freed wrapped his arms around himself in a hug, grabbing his biceps tightly.

It was a dream, wasn't it!?! Freed brought his knees up to his chest, letting tears leave him in bitterness.

"Stupid" Freed let the one word come out as a sob from his trembling lips.

Of course it wasn't real. I'm not that lucky. It was all just a dream. Me sneaking out and then Laxus and I confessing to each other. That would never happen. Never.

Freed could only let his never ending tears continue to roll down his cheeks, biting his lip in frustration and to stop himself from yelling out in anger and sadness and bitterness.

"Since when would Freed like _those_. He's never mentioned it before Bickslow."

"Yeah, I'm pretty sure _you're the_ one that likes them"

"We _both_ like them! I'm just lucky to find someone who has my amazing tastes unlike you weirdos."

"Weirdos"

"Weirdos"

"Bicks the only person here that's weird is you!"

Freed tightly pressed himself further into his ball, hearing the conversation and the approaching footsteps to the bedroom door. Before he could hurriedly untangle one of his arms from around himself, to wipe away the tears (since he didn't want anyone to see him cry anymore than he already had at the guild), the door to his room opened, gently. Surprisingly. Considering Freed was half expecting the door to be abusively opened and torn down just because that was how most of the members at Fairy Tail were.

"I-"

"Freed!" Laxus yelled out in worry, "Ever get granny"

Laxus hurriedly made it to Freed, placing the back of his hand on Freed's forehead while Bicks put his fingers to the back of Freed's wrist to check for his pulse.

"Where does it hurt? Can you see me clearly?" Laxus whispered as Freed's red puffy eyes, rimmed with tears, looked up into his calm gray ones.

It was real! What theâ€|!?!

"Iâ€| wasn't dreaming?" Freed whispered, utterly confused and slightly dazed which concerned Laxus and Bicks greatly.

"No, you weren't. I meant everything I said to you that day Freed, I swear on the guild," Laxus said hotly. However, Freed could only hear the worry in Laxus' voice instead of the anger he just portrayed. Laxus looked like he was about to apologize for yelling at him since he didn't mean to make it sound like he was angry at Freed.

"Everything?" Freed whispered making Laxus' eyes soften at how much Freed could see through him.

"Everything" Laxus gently placed a curved finger under Freed's chin, directing the man's face up towards him. Laxus gently kissed him, sparks running over their lips as soft gasps left Freed, which were only swallowed up by Laxus' mouth once more. Freed could feel the heat on his cheeks as a new set of tears wanted to come out from how gentle Laxus was being with him; considering how rough Laxus was with, with any living thing. Once Laxus and Freed separated slowly, their breathes mingling from the small space between them, Laxus gave Freed a smirk making Freed's cheeks fully explode into a blush.

"That would be the good morning kiss I promised you. Though it's the afternoon, I guess you'll have to wait till tomorrow to get a morning kiss," Laxus winked at Freed making Freed hit his arm at how blunt he was being.

low sultry whistle

"Geez, you guys could star in pornos" Bicks slow burst out laughing

only to get a heavy ceramic cup thrown at his head by Freed, making Bickslow land on his back with a thud.

"Go get Freed a cold wash cloth" Laxus huffed out, crossing his arms and daring Bickslow to refuse.

"Fun suckers!" Bicks pouted.

"Fun suckers?" Freed cocked his head in question at the weird phrasing.

"Yeah, people that suck out the fun from stuff. Fun suckers" Bicks explained as though it was the most obvious thing in the world.

"Huhâ€¦ I thought you would have said porno suckers. But I don't think we're ready for that" Laxus smirked widely as Bicks burst out laughing before he and Laxus had other ceramics thrown at them. Bicks left the room happily to get Freed said washcloth before Laxus turned to see a ruffled Freed.

"And here I was hoping you weren't a pervert. You sure showed me" Freed crossed his arms, sticking his nose up in the air trying to act snobbish. Of course Laxus could see through that ruse considering Freed was actually trying to hold back his blush. Which wasn't really working since the tops of Freed's ears started to turn pink.

Laxus plopped himself next to Freed, getting a few well-deserved arm punches from what he crudely said before. Of course Laxus just swung his arm around Freed, making him lean into his chest.

"Porlyusica went to get some herbs a little while ago. Knowing Ever and how serious I was before, she'll probably hunt down Porlyusica and bring her back as a stone statue if she had to" Laxus said sighing, knowing his poor sensitive dragon slayer ears were about to be yelled in to. Freed smiled into Laxus' chest trying to hide how happy he was, which only caused Laxus to have a tint of pink on his cheeks.

"Was I asleep for very long?"

"Three days, but Porlyusica said it was better this way since it would stop you from doing something to your lung again."

"Was it that badly damaged?"

"When we fought those beasts, Wendy thought something might have been on the red beast's claws which had slowed down her healing power."

"I-I'm sorry" Freed whispered, looking down sadly at his lap considering he knew for a fact that Laxus would want an explanation as to why Freed had broken one of the guild's rules.

"Freed" Laxus ruffled some of Freed's hair, making the little lightning bolt fly-aways bounce at the movement making Laxus chuckle.

Such soft hair. I love it in my hands Laxus combed his fingers through Freed's hair, who only hummed in approval at the feeling.

Lexus smiled into Freed's hairline, kissing him there softly. Sure he was new at the whole romancing thing, but he had seen enough romance movies from the girls at the guild and from all the books they read to know what to somewhat do; not like he could get away from that kind of incessant fangirling.

"You'd tell me if you don't like something right?" Lexus asked quietly. Freed looked up at him seriously, nodding yes at Lexus making him smile. If Freed didn't like something he would definitely tell him. Freed rested his head back onto Lexus' chest as the man played with his hair. Definitely felt like a head massage.

"Freed— why did you break the rule. I know this sounds a little subjective, but you especially care for the rules." Freed heaved a sigh knowing it was going to hurt going over his feelings again, but he needed to get passed this mile stone; not just for their relationship, but for himself.

Of course unbeknownst to them, Ever had told the guild that Freed was awake, so a giant party of them were listening outside his door. They had all heard the 'misadventure' they had against the strange beasts. Levy couldn't find anything on them which made things stranger still.

The guild master was with them and was one of the many ears against the door. Bicks was also out there with the cold washcloth, but stopped as well and joined with the many ears against the door.

"I" Freed's voice quivered making Lexus squeeze his shoulder in comfort. Freed hesitantly grabbed Lexus free hand with both of his, playing with the man's callused yet warm fingers; little sparks were running into Freed's hands from the contact making him want to smile, but this was too serious of a situation to be smiling.

"After what had happened in the pool, I honestly didn't know what I was doing. I just knew I had to get away from there; as far away as possible. Then I remembered the mission I had Warren hold for me. It was several days away and it sounded like the best option at the time. I ran back to the apartment, grabbed my go bag, and left." Of course Freed didn't want to explain how he felt during that time again since everyone knew exactly how he had felt after the confession between the two, a few nights ago.

"While I was on the train I didn't want to think about anything. But I came to the conclusion that I might as well try doing one last thing for Fairy Tail. Whether I lived or died wouldn't have really mattered since I wasn't going to be coming back to Fairy Tail anyway," Freed felt Lexus' grip on him tighten as though he were going to run from him at any moment again. Freed squeezed Lexus' hands, reassuring him that he wasn't going anywhere for the moment. Lexus continued to comb his hand through Freed's hair, which calmed Freed down a lot; especially to explain this sort of thing.

"For that reason, I broke the rule. I thought I wasn't going to be welcome back, but I didn't want Fairy Tail to be ashamed of— someone like me."

Freed knew that if he had said 'something' instead of 'someone' Lexus would have been mad at him and read him the riot act of how it's okay to be the way he is. Though he wouldn't mind listening to that

instead of explaining himself, Laxus deserved to know that Freed wouldn't break rules just to break them.

Laxus gently moved his hand from Freed's hair to caress Freed's shoulder with his thumb knowing the man would have more than likely said 'something' if he wasn't being so careful with how he was talking right now.

"I deserve whatever punishment Master wishes to give me," Freed sighed sadly knowing everyone was punished for breaking the rules one-way or the other.

"Whatever punishment he gives you I will gladly take it for you. You don't deserve to be punished for this" Laxus said angrily, before sensing other people outside the door. Laxus sighed, stopping his combing through Freed's hair before resting his hand on Freed's hip.

_Is he conscious of how possessive this move is right now? _Freed thought curiously before realizing he honestly didn't care. Freed looked at Laxus, wondering why he had stopped the wonderful head massage; although that was sounding a little bit greedy now.

"What do you think gramps?" Laxus called out before Freed looked shocked at the doorway, which opened to a mob of people.

"I was explained the situation very intensely, and although you did break a rule, it was not intended to harm other members, but you were going to harm yourself. You will be punished," Makarov nodded as Freed looked sadly down at his lap, realizing his fingers had somehow become laced with Laxus'. If he had looked up he would have seen a glaring match between both grandson and grandfather.

"Any punishment you give him I will take for him; nothing you can do to stop me" Laxus said huffing making Makarov shake his head before smiling.

"This will be your punishment Freed Justine. You are ordered toâ€¦|" Yes he paused for dramatic effect, "stay with Laxus Dreyar in his apartment until I see that you are capable of not doing something like this again. Since Laxus, of course volunteered, he can see how long this punishment will be for you." Makarov nodded once as Laxus and Freed's jaws dropped down in shock, a light tint blushing both of their cheeks. Of course there were several giggles and chuckles being held back behind the master.

"Do you understand this punishment?" Makarov tried not to look like he was enjoying himself but it wasn't really working.

"I do, butâ€¦|" Freed looked at Laxus worriedly, "I wouldn't want to be a burden or-"

Before Freed could finish his sentence, Laxus kissed him soundly making Freed's eyelids flutter closed at the warm sensation; hearing wolf whistles and yelling in the background.

"Your punishment will be forever. Get that through your stubborn head Freed Justine. You will never be a burden," Laxus whispered out the last part as several 'awes' resounded around the room. Laxus rolled his eyes at them as Freed blushed at their antics.

Suddenly the mob of people swarmed in seeing that Freed was okay with their own eyes.

"I'm sorry for what was said Freed. No one should ever hear such cruel things in their life" Erza said sadly as Freed looked at her kindly.

"I understand it wasn't really you. Any of you" Freed said, looking at how Bickslow, Ever, Mira, and Erza looked down at the floorboards sadly.

"Since the spell reversed real emotions, it just shows you all really like me right?" Freed attempted at a happier mood making said people smile again.

"Of course! We're your best friends and guild mates!" Ever said happily, hugging the life out of Freed.

"I got you these too! Your favorites!" Bickslow handed the man a red box with gold ribbon lining. Freed looked at the box curiously before seeing chocolate covered mangos.

"They are delicious" Freed chuckled, taking a big bite of the chocolate. Of course he gave one to Erza and Lucy who looked like they were about to start drooling at the delicious sugar covered substance in front of them. Of course Freed just handed them the box knowing that he wouldn't ever see it again.

"He was telling the truth!?" Ever and Laxus shouted out shocked making Bickslow smile happily.

"Well they aren't my favorite, but they are one of the many candies I'll eat" Freed laughed softly before giving some of his chocolate mango to Laxus. Laxus opened his mouth to be fed by the man, making Freed blush profusely, making him practically shove the chocolate in Laxus' mouth in embarrassment; of course Laxus only winked at him, holding back his chuckles. Freed of course tried to hide his red face in Laxus' shoulder making some of their guild mates say 'awe' again. Laxus nodded after a moment, agreeing it was delicious.

"Well I tried!" Bicks laughed before pouncing on the girls who were stuffing their faces with chocolates. Of course it was like trying to attack lionesses after their kill so Bicks couldn't even see the box anymore or get anywhere near said delicious candy.

"That's what you get!" Ever said while chewing on the candy. Bicks had little of tears leave him; all the delicious chocolate. Devoured.

After a few minutes of idle chit-chat with everyone, Freed felt a lot better about everything and a little bit ridiculous for acting the way he did before; of course it was understandable. Everyone started to trickle out of the room telling Freed to get better soon and to come to the guild as soon as he can so they know he is okay. Of course the trickling turned in to full out running when Porlyusica came bursting through the door yelling at them in anger for cluttering up her house with stupid humans.

"Natsu, Gajeel, Wendy, I need you to stay for a moment," Makarov said

gently making the dragon slayers look at him confused, along with Laxus.

"Is everything okay Master?" Erza looked worriedly before Porlyusica shoved Erza, Lucy, Gray, Juvia, Levy, Ever, Bickslow, and Elfman out the door with the strongest most evil glare they had ever seen. Of course Porlyusica slammed the door behind them.

"We'll be back at the guild soon so make your way there," Makarov said without a care in the world as though it wasn't that impressive that Porlyusica could get powerful members out of a room with just a glare. Especially with how protective they were with each other.

"What's this about gramps?" Laxus' hand had somehow ended underneath Freed's shirt, caressing his hip. Of course Freed didn't seem to notice or mind in the least; nor did anyone else for that matter.

"There is something very important I had been meaning to discuss with you Laxus" Makarov sat on Freed's bed, sitting in front of the two.

"Umâ€¦" Wendy began to raise her hand as the dragon slayers looked uncomfortable in the room, not wanting to be there for whatever relationship advice Makarov was about to give him.

"This is about dragon slayers. Even though most of you are 'of age', it would be best if it was explained to all of you at once so I don't have to repeat myself again."

"Of age gramps?" Natsu asked, sitting Indian style on the floor while Wendy and Gajeel got comfortable too.

"Dragon slayers have mates. They can have regular mates or end up with their true mate. A mate is someone that they have claimed, and a mark will appear on the claimed person somewhere; usually where the neck and shoulder meet. The dragon slayer can also choose if they even want to claim anyone at all. However, if a dragon slayer claims their true mate, whether knowing it or not, a mark will also appear on the dragon slayer's neck showing that they have a full and complete bond with one another," Porlyusica explained while mixing together the herbs for Freed's disgusting medicine.

"Let me explain it woman, damn it!" Makarov huffed as the dragon slayers just looked at each other still shocked by the information they just heard. Porlyusica only glared at Makarov before continuing her work.

"Porlyusica-san and I have agreed that Freed is your true mate from what we have seen over the years"

Freed felt Laxus' hand tighten on his hip making Freed blush a little.

"Whether or not someone is claimed by a dragon slayer, being just a mate, can have the mark removed by the dragon slayer at any time. With a true mate, the mark will never disappear from either person."

"When you say claimed and to mark, what are you talking about old man?" Gajeel asked confused, though they were all still in shock.

"You have sex with them and then bite them, pushing your magic power into their body. The one receiving the bite doesn't have to bite the dragon slayer back, but the dragon slayer will still receive a mark on them if it is their true mate they are having sex with," Porlyusica butted in again making Makarov growl at her.

"However!" Makarov yelled out, not wanting to be interrupted again, "We aren't sure whether true mates are biologically designed for the dragon slayer or if the true mate is 'formed', so to speak, from being around a dragon slayer for so long. We think it's a combination of both. They are biologically and socially created for the dragon slayer. A dragon slayer and their mate have the choice of whether or not they want to be with one another. We just don't want you kids alarmed if something strange looking appears on the recipients necks or wherever" Makarov nodded. Freed looked at the shocked look on all of the dragon slayers faces knowing he was showing the same feelings.

"If you both agree to be mates, or life mates if it is with your true mate, there are several things that will happen. Some of which can both be helpful and dangerous to your mate" Porlyusica handed Freed the cup of liquid who looked less than interested in drinking it.

The dragon slayers put their hands over their noses from the horrible smell feeling bad that Freed had to drink something that smelled that gross.

"Can't believe you're giving him something like that" Laxus wrinkled his nose once Freed had finished drinking the medicine, before Porlyusica gave him a mint to chew on. The room was quiet for a while, while the dragon slayers thought over everything.

"Freed" Laxus whispered, but there really wasn't a point in being quiet since the room was silent and they all had great hearing.

"I don't want you to be with me by force, biologically or whatever" Laxus said sadly. Even if he wanted to be with Freed, he wasn't going to force the guy into something he couldn't control.

"Well I mean, it took a while for me to like you when we first met. It wasn't like I instantly fell in love with you when I saw you so you didn't force anything! Since it seems I was the only one affected like this, for gramps and the old lady to claim that I'm your t-true mate, I don't think either of us could help what happened. Iâ€¦ honestly wouldn't mind being your mate for lifeâ€¦ as long as you'd be happy with someone like me" Freed whispered bashfully before Laxus gave him a blinding smile which somehow got all the nervous dragon slayers and old people in the room to smile as well.

"Really?"

"Yeah" Freed nodded before kissing Laxus softly on the corner of his lips, blushing. Laxus only smiled softly, pulling Freed into his side. Of course Freed enjoyed the warmth greatly.

"You guys are so corny" Natsu chuckled, holding back a laugh that Happy usually used with the 'supposed' couples around the guild. Laxus glared at him making Natsu stiffen before pouting.

"What is dangerous for the person when they are claimed?" Wendy asked curiously wondering what would happen if they had a mate or not.

"Well a mark, once given, will protect the mate for life. From poisons or serious attacks that could result in death. It also protects the mate from being claimed by someone else; it is especially powerful if it is the true mate. It can be used to save their dragon slayer in battles where they could be killed. However, it has mysterious healing properties. For example, if their mate is sterile, once having the mark, they become fertile. If the dragon slayer is on the verge of death, one touch from their mate and they will slowly be saved from dying. Dragon slayers also get very protective and almost possessive of their mates. It could get dangerous for anyone the dragon slayers don't trust or don't want near their mate in general. They could either end up hurting innocent people or their mate in blind rages if something bad were to happen to their mate by accident or on purpose. The mark is mysterious in other aspects, but because there haven't been any 'matings' in a very long time, we aren't sure what else it is capable of," Porlyusica placed her hand on Freed's back telling him to do a few breathing exercises for her.

"Because you don't know what else the mark can do, that's why you are saying it could be dangerous to the mate?" Gajeel asked, rubbing his chin in thought.

"Yes. You must also remember that if you claim your true mate, the mark on the dragon slayer will not allow for any other mates to be claimed. In other words, you probably won't be able to 'get it up'" Makarov chuckled making everyone glare at him.

"Wow. How many matings have there ever been?" Freed asked curiously wondering how his life wandered onto this strange new road.

"Only two have ever been recorded before but that was back when dragons roamed. So whether or not the claims are true, we'll have to leave it up to what actually happens. Which means that I expect to see you and your mate so I can take notes!" Porlyusica snapped at them making them sweat drop.

"What did you mean about 'of age' from before gramps?" Laxus asked curiously, his head resting on top of Freed's.

"Once a dragon slayer has turned fifteen, it will be evident if their true mate has been around them the whole time before then. They will also be able to tell more accurate smells that will lead them to a person who will be a good mate if it is not their true mate. Once a true mate has been claimed, or any mate for that matter, all dragon slayers become protective of each other's mates. We aren't sure why this happens either." Makarov nodded as Wendy looked slightly relieved while Natsu and Gajeel tensed since they were both over 16 years old.

"It is also possible that your true mates were already chosen

unconsciously by you" Porlyusica added, confirming that the muscle ache in Freed's chest was normal.

Gajeel and Natsu exchanged a _look_.

"Well look gramps and granny, its been weird so I'm going to go" Natsu said before opening the door walking out.

Gajeel and Wendy left as well, Wendy thanking Porlyusica for the information knowing the other dragon slayers were thankful for knowing something as important as this.

"Well I expect to see you at Laxus' place once the old hag clears you, as agreed for your punishment" Makarov nodded, hopping off the bed, waving his way out the door.

"Youâ€| aren't mad that it's someone like me Master?" Freed asked worriedly making Makarov stop and for Laxus to hold his hand tightly in anger that Freed would think something like that. He cared to a point if his grandpa didn't want Freed to be his mate, but that wouldn't stop him from allowing it to happen.

"Of course not boy! As mages, our lives become complicated and the next day could be our last. So when love comes around it should be held tightly. It doesn't matter who it is. As Erza has said before, love is love. That's all that matters" Makarov smiled making Freed give a watery smile in happiness. Laxus smirked at his grandfather, shaking his head.

"If you rest for a few more days I will allow you to leave. If he comes back worse than when he left I will _find _you Laxus Dreyar for not taking care of my patient" Laxus nodded quickly not wanting his poor dragon ears to start ringing from her yelling.

"Thank you for everything" Freed whispered softly, smiling up at the old woman who gave a small smile back before glaring at them and then stomping away.

"I can't wait till the end of the week" Laxus pulled Freed so he was lying down next to him.

"Me either" Freed yawned before snuggling into Laxus' chest who only chuckled at his antics.

"You're like a cat when you do that. It'sâ€| cute"

Freed glared at him because he used the word cute on him, but let it go knowing he was too tired to put up a good argument right now.

"Sleep Freed"

Freed didn't need any more encouragement before he was out like a light.

"My beautiful mate, Freed. I will never let you go" Laxus fell asleep soon after since he hadn't been sleeping well with Freed injured the way he was. He ended up wrapping an arm around Freed's middle section protectively, their legs ending up tangled together. Freed had a small smile on his face as he slept.

* * *

><p>There you are lovely readers! I'll add other things about mates further in the story when other stuff starts to happen.

8. Intermission I

So this kind of popped into my head and so I was thinking 'why not share my weird thoughts with the internet?' Hope you guys like it, if not you can skip it and wait for the real story that will be after this chapter ^^". Also, please remember that Wendy said dragon's are very intelligent and can talk okay? Okay :]

* * *

><p>In a land where only dragons existed, a lone white dragon with yellow spikes running down his back to his tail, glided amongst the thunderclouds. Lightning would strike his body every now and again but none of that bothered him.<p>

He could shoot lightning from his mouth and fire was no stranger to him. He was one of the most powerful dragons out there but of course he wasn't the only one. There was a dragon that could change her scales to different styles and strengths depending on the dragon she was fighting against. Even one so powerful to disassemble anything and everything in his path without touching it existed. There was a fire dragon that bothered him to no end, though he was his friend. There was also an iron, wind, light, and shadow dragons, which he was at least acquaintances with, but they were on equal terms. Any and all types of dragons existed (so pretty much every wizard is a dragon ^^ teehee).

One night however, he was caught in the middle of a misfire with several rogue dragons attacking each other. He wasn't one to mess with and he was a loner because of his inept behavior towards other dragons. Most of them just thought he was mean and dangerous and hated other dragons, which is why he was alone. Of course it seemed that the fire dragon and black and blue dragon that could control other dragons (Bicksdragon) were the only one who knew that wasn't the case, which is why they would visit the lightning dragon every now and again. The lightning dragon would never mind either of their presences since he didn't really like being alone, but he'd never admit that. Of course the iron, light and shadow dragons would visit him too.

Now that he thought about it, a lot of dragons visited him.

He was thinking this now since the crossfire he tried to get away from caused his leg and wing to be damaged. He was resting under some trees; shooting pain was in his wing more than his leg. It was storming around him, as water would pour on him from above. He couldn't really move well so he didn't bother finding shelter. He suddenly felt the rain stop hitting him even though it kept thundering around him.

He noticed that some giant leaves were pulled over top of him so the rain would stop hitting him. When did that happen? The lightning

dragon looked around letting out a low growl in warning. Suddenly, a lavender colored dragon with green spikes going down its back peeked its head out from behind a tree.

The lightning dragon growled again in warning making the lavender dragon bow his head slightly trying to show he wasn't going to hurt him. The lightning dragon warily eyed the lavender dragon as he slowly came up to him. He was smaller than the lightning dragon and had big blue eyes making the lightning dragon only see kindness.

The lavender dragon suddenly dropped a fish in front of him, scooting the fish towards him with his snout. The lightning dragon cocked his head in question, sniffing the fish suspiciously before growling in anger at the lavender dragon. The lavender dragon ran off, frightened, before the lightning dragon happily ate the fish and then fell asleep.

The same thing happened again. Dropping the fish, loud growl, running off. The entire week went like that which the lightning dragon should have been annoyed about, but now he was just waiting for the lavender dragon to show up again. When the lavender dragon did show up, the lightning dragon felt happiness (getting slightly confused at the feeling) but liked this dragon. He was quiet and gave him lots of fish.

Something changed today though. The lavender dragon kept his head down, dropped the fish in front of the lightning dragon and quickly turned around to walk away. It was rather sad to see since the lavender dragon's wings drooped too. The lightning dragon, realizing that all his roaring to get the lavender dragon away from him made the lavender dragon sad. Yet he still gave him the fish. Was it because he was injured? Usually a dragon's mate would tend to the wound, but having no mate he would just have to suffer until his wounds scarred over.

The lightning dragon really liked the lavender dragon and didn't want him to leave this time. He had been nothing but nice to him even though the lightning dragon had only been mean. The lightning dragon quickly bit down on the lavender dragon's tail gently, but strong enough to have the lavender dragon stop. Of course the lavender dragon became so startled by the action that he just fell on his front making the lightning dragon start laughing with low huffs and growls.

The lightning dragon stopped immediately though seeing the lavender dragon become even more upset, about to run away.

"Don't go" The lightning dragon said, stopping the lavender dragon from leaving. He quickly picked up the fish and offered it to the lavender dragon who looked utterly surprised.

"Thank you for the fish" The lavender dragon nodded quickly, making the lightning dragon give a toothy smile from how odd that looked. The lavender dragon ate half of the fish before giving the other half back. The lightning dragon looked surprised before eating it.

The lavender dragon left after that, but the same thing happened for another week. Today though the lightning dragon was going to get the lavender dragon to talk. He had been asking only yes and no questions, but the lavender dragon seemed too shy to ask any

questions back. So the lightning dragon knew a lot about the lavender dragon, but he was sure the lavender dragon would have questions for him too. As expected the lavender dragon came happily pouncing towards him making him laugh again. This only caused the lavender dragon to pounce higher before landing gracefully in front of him with more fish.

"Is tuna your favorite?"

Nod.

"Were you busy today?"

Nod.

"Do you ever talk?"

The lavender dragon looked away sadly making the lightning dragon sad too. His leg wasn't that much better but he shuffled a little in order to nuzzle the lavender dragon. They had been doing little things like this with each other since the lightning dragon was sure the lavender dragon was just as alone as he was.

"You won't hurt me if I talk?" The lavender dragon's voice sounded beautiful to the lightning dragon.

"Why!?" The lavender dragon saw the sadness behind the anger before nuzzling the lightning dragon back in comfort.

"They said strong dragons will kill me if I talk since I'm not powerful" The lavender dragon looked away sadly.

"I'd never hurt you" The lavender dragon looked surprised at the lightning dragon before becoming overly happy at him with a toothy smile, his tail swinging back and forth. The lightning dragon suddenly licked the lavender dragon's cheek making his cheeks turn a dark shade of purple. They were soon nuzzling happily against each other.

"Can I help you with your wound?" The lightning dragon was a little nervous since mates were supposed to do that sort of thing, but he really, really, really, liked the lavender dragon so he would definitely allow it.

"Yes"

The lavender dragon suddenly scrambled away making the lightning dragon curious before seeing a whole bunch of water in purple glowing bowl made of fire along with some plants. The lavender dragon blew some more purple fire to heat up the water to a boil, tossing the plants in before it became a glob of green goop. The purple dragon pushed the purple bowl with the substance over to the lightning dragon's wounds, about to place the goop on with his scaly hand.

"It will hurt, but it will make it better, I promise"

"I trust you" The lavender dragon's cheeks turned dark purple again before he applied the substance making the lightning dragon hold back his growls of pain.

"It should heal the wound properly and you should at least be able to fly in a few days. I'd hate it if I couldn't fly!"

"Thank you," The lightning dragon said softly, nuzzling the lavender dragon again who was enjoying it thoroughly.

"I told you my name was Lightningblade, what is yours?"

"Rune" Noticing the sun was setting, and that's when he usually left, he nuzzled Lightningblade once more before turning away to leave.

"Stay?" Rune looked at him surprised before looking shyly at the ground, moving dirt around with his claw.

"Dragon's usually sleep close together. Wouldn't other dragons see it as strange if you were next to me?"

"Don't care. I like you. You are staying here" Lightningblade huffed at him, gently biting on to Rune's tail and dragging him to rest by his side. Rune knew Lightningblade was very crude and not very good with other dragons, but he could see the meaning behind the words; he always could.

Rune nuzzled Lightningblade happily before yawning and resting his head on his claws. He suddenly felt a weight over top of his shoulders before realizing Lightningblade was resting his head over his shoulders in a protective stance. Rune was definitely turning a dark purple at this point before smiling happily to himself and falling asleep. This went on for the next few days before Lightningblade was able to fully stretch his wings out, realizing the goop had actually helped his wing and leg really well.

When Rune went off, saying he needed to get something, Lightningblade went for a quick swim, catching some tuna, having a plan.

When Rune came back he noticed that Lightningblade seemed to be drying off who turned around noticing him.

"If I put this on your leg, it will really help!" Rune had some strange yellow herbs before happily pouncing towards him. Lightningblade held up a clawed hand, making Rune stop and look at him nervously, afraid he was going to leave him since he was almost fully healed.

Lightningblade suddenly pulled out a bunch of tuna for Rune, pushing them towards him with his snout.

"Be my mate?" Lightningblade bowed slightly, displaying his wings and tensing his body so the other dragon could see how large and powerful he was. Lightningblade was looking nervously at the ground though since it was up to the dragon they were pursuing to see if they were worthy or not. Lightningblade hated that his leg was still somewhat injured since that could ruin his chances at having a mate.

Rune turned a dark purple before jumping on top of Lightningblade in excitement making them roll around on the forest floor. Lightningblade nipped at him playfully with Rune doing the same to him, before Lightningblade took a dominant stance over Rune who was currently on his belly. Rune only lifted his hindquarters up towards

Lightningblade, moving his tail away, understanding that he was his submissive. Lightningblade looked absolutely thrilled at the stance, putting a clawed hand on top of Rune's back who only purred out at him; that was so attractive. Lightningblade continued his pretend fighting with Rune. It wasn't mating season after all. Rune nuzzled Lightningblade happily into his neck making him let out a purr, almost.

Several loud roars were heard in the sky above them as three dragons were fighting in the sky before breaking apart. They seemed to be a pack but were really rough with each other.

Lightningblade and Rune were pretty well covered from the three dragons passing by because of the large leaves in the forest. No dragons had ever started a serious fight with him since most had seen him fight seriously with competitors for territory; they ended up severely wounded while rogue dragons ended up killed by him.

Rune immediately began to whimper as he burrowed himself underneath Lightningblade, waiting for the dragons to go away. Lightningblade was on all fours so Rune was completely covered by the larger dragon.

"Rune?" Lightningblade asked worriedly. Rune only huddled more underneath him, nuzzling his head against Lightningblade's forearm looking for comfort. Lightningblade gently licked Rune's cheek, trying to comfort his mate.

"Do you know them?" Rune nodded unhappily making Lightningblade worried.

"I go to a pond to catch tuna sometimes. Its in the meadow passed the mountains" Lightningblade nodded since most dragons went there to relax, it was considered neutral territory.

"Theyâ€|attacked me, saying I wasn't a real dragon cause of how I look and act. They said if I came back they'd force a mating to make sure no one would ever want me. So now I just get the tuna from the ocean whenever I can instead" Rune said sadly, whimpering.

Lightningblade growled angrily, letting out a roar of warning for no one to come near there; it seemed to echo across the forest.

"Lightning! What are you doing?"

"How dare they threaten dragons like that! Especially to you now that you are my mate! I'll show them who their superior is."

"If you got hurt I wouldn't knowâ€|" Rune started to say sadly before ending up nuzzling him.

"If they said those things to you, I am sure they have to others. They must be stopped. To threaten a forced mating is forbidden"

"It is?"

"Youâ€| didn't know?"

"I'm not usually around others so I don't know all of the customs, but I'm trying to learn" Lightningblade let out a sigh before nuzzling Rune back. Rune had come from a country a long way away from there when he was a baby dragon; he never knew his parents.

"Everyday I will tell you something about our customs, understand?" Rune licked his cheek happily making Lightningblade nip at him playfully.

"I'll get them back for threatening you! You are MINE" Lightningblade said angrily making Rune very happy because he was so adorably protective.

"But you can't claim that yet. We haven't mated and it isn't mating season for another three weeks" Rune said unhappily considering that meant the dragons would have more time to try and hurt him if he got in their way again.

"I'll let this custom slide, just for tonight. My wing is all better and my leg is almost fully healed." Rune remembered the herbs he brought before chewing them up and licking the paste onto Lightningblade's leg.

"What did you mean let the custom slide?"

"Mates only mate during mating season" Rune nodded knowing this, "I'd like to make you mine sooner than that"

Rune started to turn a dark purple before nodding shyly, running from Lightningblade. It was customary for the dominant to chase the submissive, to prove their worth to their mate. Rune was very fast, but Lightningblade was never going to let him go. Rune had lost Lightningblade a few times before he seemed to pop out of nowhere (his sense of smell was amazing) but he did tire easily so Lightningblade was able to catch him.

That night they mated happily under the stars.

A mark of claim would appear for all to see for the next hundreds of years that was on both of them.

Lightningblade was going to make sure those dragons never harmed his mate again. He nuzzled Rune gently since he was practically on top of the smaller dragon who was peacefully sleeping underneath him, happy.

* * *

><p>"That was a weird ass dream" Freed woke up with a yawn wondering where Laxus went.<p>

Laxus was eating breakfast, but unbeknownst to him, Laxus had the same dream.

* * *

><p>I haven't seen anything like what I wrote so I hope it was interesting and not something anyone has read or thought of before :P Although I'm sure I haven't read all the Fraxus stories out

there so...

End
file.